

Westford Economic Development Update



Presentation to Westford Business Association

March 23, 2016

Jodi Ross, Westford Town Manager

2015 Recognitions

- Westford schools rank 8th best school district out of 150 in Greater Boston.
- Recognized by ADT security as one of the 25 safest cities in America.
- valuepenguin.com ranked Westford 3rd out of 10th safest large communities in Massachusetts.
- Received Gold Award from AAA of Southern New England for Pedestrian Safety Initiatives
- Circle Health was 2015 recipient of the Community Champion Award



- Featured in January 3, 2016 Boston Sunday Globe

Economic Development Committee

2016 Work Plan

- ◆ Economic Development Self Assessment Test (EDSAT) follow-up
- ◆ In depth review of current permitting procedures/guide
- ◆ New business recruitment
- ◆ Office, retail, commercial, industrial space and land availability
- ◆ Westford villages
- ◆ Continue participation on 12 North Main Street Task Force
- ◆ Collaboration/outreach
- ◆ More info: www.westfordma.gov

2016 Tax Rate Statistics

Fiscal Year 2016 Tax Rates	
Westford Residential Tax Rate	\$16.30
Westford Commercial Tax Rate (\$1 million+)	\$16.50
Acton Single Tax Rate	\$19.23
Chelmsford Single Tax Rate	\$18.03
Littleton Residential Tax Rate	\$17.69
Littleton Commercial Tax Rate	\$28.04

Approved Development:

Whole Foods Market (160 Littleton Road)

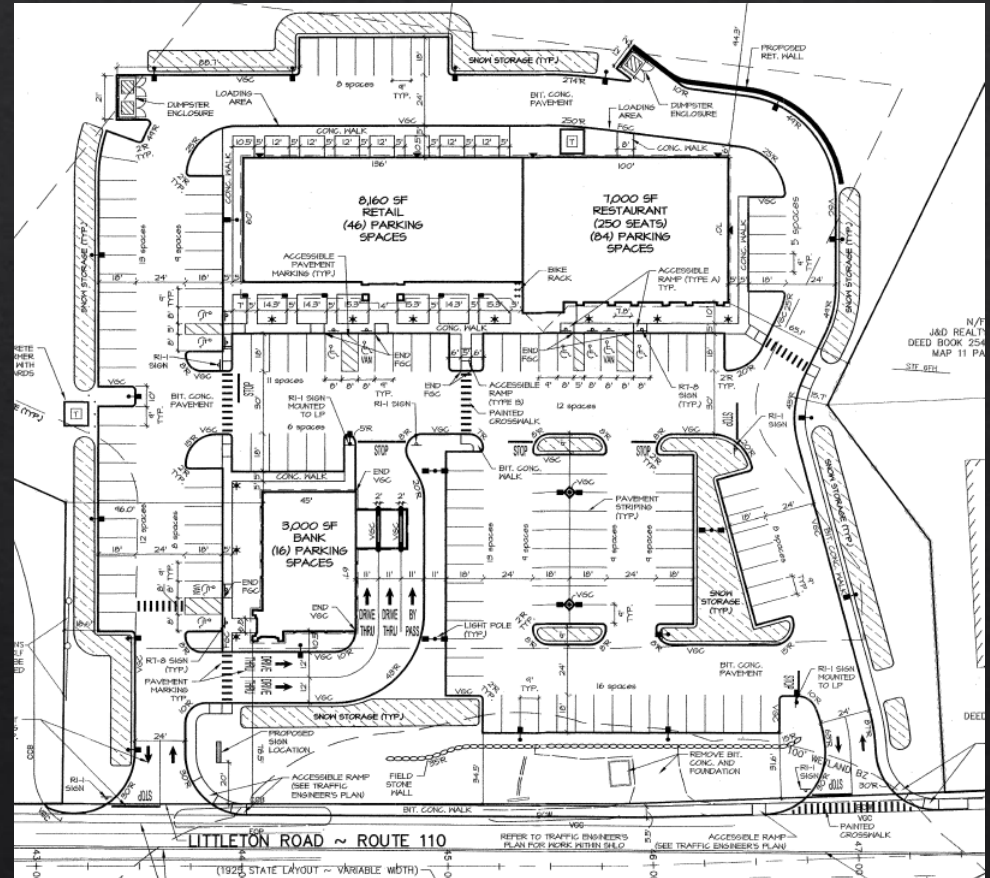
◆ Anticipated opening
date: May 1st, 2016



Approved Development:

Orchard Square (355 Littleton Road)

- ◆ 8,160 Sq ft retail
- ◆ 7,000 Sq ft restaurant
- ◆ 3,000 Sq ft bank



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Approved Developments

Abbot Mill Phase II

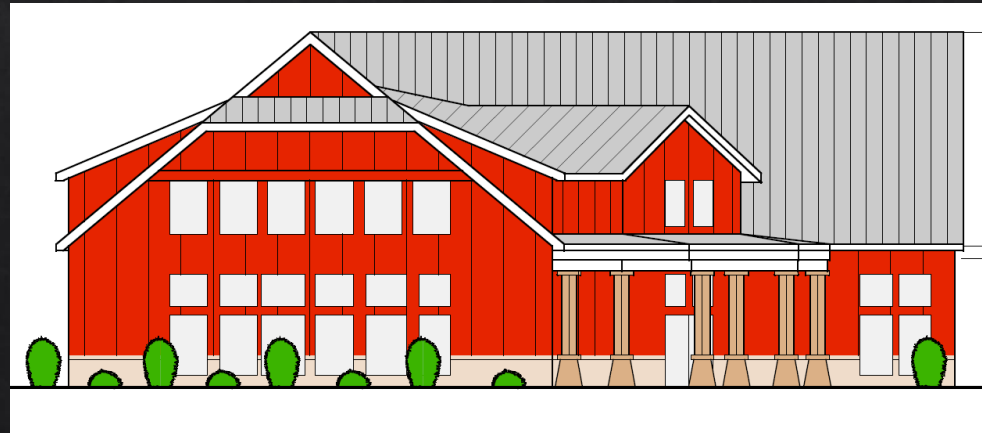
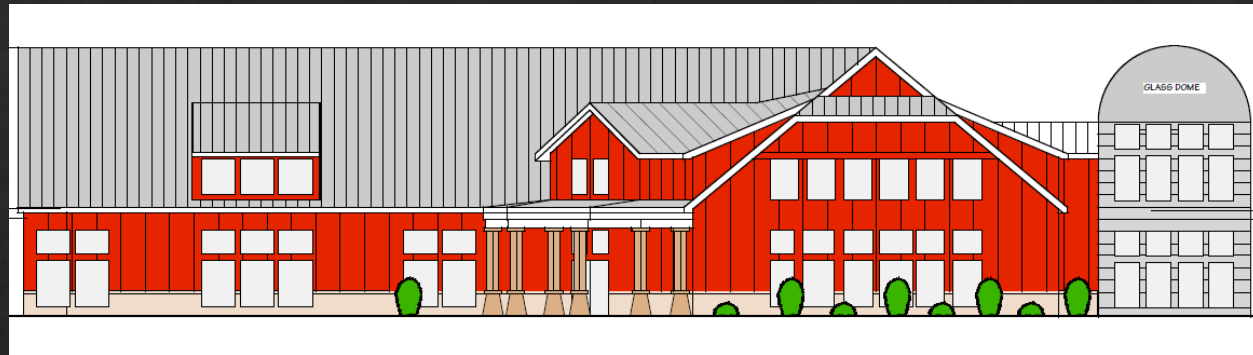
- ◆ 99 new units
- ◆ Rental only
- ◆ Received \$200k MassWorks grant for water infrastructure



Proposed Development:

Restaurant and function facility at former Drew Gardens Property (66-68 Boston Road)

- ◆ Two-story farm to table restaurant and function facility
- ◆ Greenhouse
- ◆ Orchards



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Healthy Community Initiative

- ◆ New Healthy Community Committee being formed
- ◆ Notice of Intent to Develop Complete Streets Policy
- ◆ New sidewalk on Plain Road proposed at Town Meeting
- ◆ New sidewalks proposed on Rt 40 and Littleton Road funded by the State – as part of new Oak Hill and Dunstable Rd stoplights
- ◆ School gardens at every elementary school - paid for by Circle Health /Lowell General Hospital
 - ◆ each child in grades K-5 will get a true “seed to stomach” experience

Proposed Construction / Renovation of Municipal Buildings



Proposed Center Fire Station on Boston Rd



Proposed \$12M expansion of JV Fletcher Library



Proposed \$7.3M rehabilitation of Roudenbush Community Center

Town Farm Building For Sale?



- ◆ Approx. 11,000 Sq ft building
- ◆ Approx. 0.65 Acres
- ◆ Built in 1837
- ◆ Seeking Town Meeting authorization to sell the Town Farm property with an historic deed restriction
- ◆ Est. \$3.5M repairs needed
- ◆ Recreation Department looking for new home

Marijuana and Polystyrene

- ◆ Informal interest from multiple firms regarding locating a marijuana dispensary in Westford
 - ◆ Proposal received for 3 Lan Drive from Seven Points of Massachusetts – on BoS April 12th agenda
- ◆ Citizens' Petition for Town Meeting to consider ban on polystyrene food containers for all town departments and businesses in Westford



Community Electricity Aggregation


- ◆ Started February 2016
- ◆ 7,445 residential, commercial, industrial customers enrolled
- ◆ Significant Savings from \$0.04 per kwh reduction (average savings \$27 per month residential)
- ◆ Continue to receive single bill and service from National Grid
- ◆ Opt out at any time, no early termination fees

Social Media – Follow Us!

On Twitter:
@WestfordMA_TM

On Facebook:
Jodi Ross, Town Manager

Plus more Social Media:
www.westfordma.gov/sm

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Fire Department		
Fletcher Library		
Police Department		
Town Manager		
Veterans Affairs		